

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 206
By Phelan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach David Russell and the 1996-1997 Bradford High School girls' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament.

WHEREAS, greatness in the world of high school athletics is measured by many varied criteria, including total number of victories, overall record, the quality of the teams you have beaten, how the experts rate your team, how you face and overcome adversity, and most importantly, by the championships you have won; and

WHEREAS, by any classic measure of the term, the 1996-1997 Bradford High School girls' basketball team, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament champions, is a "great" team which has recently completed a "great" season; and

WHEREAS, Bradford won the regular season District 14-A title with an unblemished 10-0 record; and

WHEREAS, they finished runner-up in the District 14-A Tournament, beating Trenton 68-36; and

WHEREAS, at the fabled Region 7-A Tournament, the Lady Red Devils were on fire, defeating Bruceton 69-35, besting tough Gleason 43-42 and taking revenge on Lake County with an impressive 54-46 victory; and

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WHEREAS, in the crucial substate match, Bradford fought off a stiff challenge from Harding Academy with a 49-47 overtime win; and

WHEREAS, with cheers of “red and white, fight, fight, fight” reverberating in their ears, this tremendously talented team took home the top trophy, winning the State Tournament with exciting victories over Moore County 69-49, Gordonsville 60-54, in overtime, and Celina 64-47; and

WHEREAS, this year marked the second straight state championship for the Bradford girls; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Red Devils compiled a very impressive 33-2 overall record, a phenomenal .943 winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, their excellent coach, David Russell, has done a superb job of carefully mapping out strategy and inspiring his team to maximize the use of their considerable talent; and

WHEREAS, his stellar efforts were recognized when he was honored as the *Jackson Sun* All-West Tennessee Coach of the Year, Region 7-A Coach of the Year and District 14-A Coach of the Year. He was fortunate to have as his assistant, Assistant Coach Chris Hart; and

WHEREAS, the team was led by the TSSAA Class A Miss Basketball, junior jumper Tonya Tuggles, who was also honored as the State Tournament Most Valuable Player, the *Jackson Sun* West Tennessee Player of the Year, All-Region 7-A and All-District 14-A; and

WHEREAS, she was capably assisted by sophomore sensation Tasheka Brown, an All-State Tournament, First team *Jackson Sun* All-West Tennessee, All-Region 7-A and All-District 14-A choice; junior Jodi Loynes, an All-State Tournament, All-Region 7-A and All-District 14-A honoree; senior Co-Captain Mindy Sellers, an All-Region 7-A and All-District 14-A selection; and junior Michelle Manning, who made the All-District team; and

WHEREAS, each of the other squad members: senior Co-Captain Damaris Foren, juniors Karla Bennett, Brittney Campbell, and Casey White; sophomore Paige Lannom and

freshmen Emily Bryant, Lara McCartney, Kenya Thomas, Laura Golden, and Jessica Henson have made a significant contribution to the team's success this season; and

WHEREAS, the team was strongly supported by their fine principal Joe Denning; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were: April Branson, Carla Cooper, Krystle Gordon, Beverly Hall, and Leslie Guy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this "never say die team" on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach David Russell and the 1996-1997 TSSAA Class A state champion Bradford High School girls' basketball team who has carried on and added to the school's exemplary tradition of exceptional athleticism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.